

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1028

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UN, MX

SUBJ: MEXICAN ROLE IN SPECIAL SESSION PREPARATIONS

MEXICO 4508

1. MEXICAN UN MISSION HAS KEPT A LOW PUBLIC PROFILE SO FAR IN ACTIVITIES CONCERNING THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT, ALTHOUGH MEXICO PARTICIPATES IN THE 10-MEMBER STEERING GROUP ENGAGED IN DEVELOPING A COORDINATED "INFORMATION PAPER FOR NON-ALIGNED AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON SPECIAL SESSION ISSUES. THE MEXICANS DID NOT SPEAK AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SESSION PREPCOM, WHERE THEY WERE REPRESENTED BY FIRST SECRETARY (AND DISARMAMENT SPECIALIST) FRANCISCO CORREA. CCD REP AND FORMER FONMIN GARCIA ROBLES HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO ATTEND EVEN THIS MEETING OF PREPCOM BUT DID NOT. HE IS, HOWEVER, EXPECTED TO ATTEND MAY AND SEPTEMBER SESSIONS.

2. MEXICAN QUIETNESS SO FAR IS PARTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO GARCIA ROBLES' ABSENCE, SINCE, AS EMBASSY KNOWS, HE HAS LONG MAINTAINED A FIRM PERSONAL CONTROL OVER MEXICAN
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ACTIVITY IN DISARMAMENT FIELD. ANOTHER FACTOR IS APPARENTLY UNEXPECTED DELAY IN OBTAINING APPROVAL OF BASIC STATEMENT OF MEXICAN POSITION FOR RESPONSE TO SYG'S REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT VIEWS ON SPECIAL SESSION ISSUES. WE UNDERSTAND THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN AWAITING APPROVAL BY FONMIN ROEL FOR SEVERAL WEEKS.

3. MORE GENERALLY, MEXICANS APPEAR TO FAVOR A GO-SLOW APPROACH TO SPECIAL SESSION PREPARATIONS, IN CONTRAST TO THE YUGOSLAVS, FOR EXAMPLE, WHO WOULD PREFER TO MOVE PROMPTLY TO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS ON SESSION'S FINAL DOCUMENTS. MEXICANS HAVE URGED THAT DETAILED SUBSTANTIVE WORK BE DELAYED UNTIL AFTER 32ND UNGA, PRESUMABLY AS MEANS OF INCREASING PRESSURE ON THE MAJOR POWERS.

4. PERHAPS THE MOST CURIOUS ASPECT OF MEXICAN POSTURE AT THIS STAGE IS THEIR VIGOROUS AND ALMOST BITTER OPPOSITION TO SOVIET EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A LINKAGE BETWEEN THE SPECIAL SESSION AND THE CONVENING OF A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE, MAINFESTED MOST RECENTLY IN THE APRIL 4 MEETING OF THE WDC AD HOC COMITE (SEPTTEL). THE ODDITY OF THIS IS THAT MEXICO'S POSITION IS, ON PAPER, ALMOST IDENTICAL TO THAT OF THE SOVIETS. THEY TOO HAVE REPEATEDLY IDENTIFIED THE "QUESTION OF CONVENING A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE" AS A KEY TOPIC FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION.

5. MEXICO'S AIM SEEMS TO BE NOT TO KEEP WDC OFF THE AGENDA OF THE SPECIAL SESSION, BUT TO ENSURE THAT IT IS PUT ON THE AGENDA ONLY AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE NON-ALIGNED AND IN A MANNER CORRESPONDING TO MEXICAN RATHER THAN SOVIET VIEWS OF A WDC. THE MEXICANS HAVE LONG MAINTAINED THAT A WDC SHOULD BE A REPLACEMENT FOR THE ESSENTIALLY DEFUNCT UN DISARMAMENT COMMISSION, OPEN TO ALL UN MEMBERS AND MEETING EVERY THREE OR FOUR YEARS TO REVIEW PROGRESS, "COMPARE THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARMAMENTS AND OF DISARMAMENT", AND TO "ADOPT SUCH DECISIONS AS THAT REVIEW SHOWED TO BE CONFIDENTIAL

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DESIRABLE". THE WDC WOULD PARALLEL, IN THE DISARMAMENT FIELD, THE WORK OF UNCTAD IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD, AND PRESUMABLY BE BACKED UP BY A SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT.

6. WE WOULD EXPECT THE MEXICANS TO PUSH THIS IDEA AT THE SPECIAL SESSION, ONCE THEY CAN WORK OUT A WAY OF ENSURING THAT WDC WILL NOT BE A "SOVIET ITEM". THEY WILL, OF COURSE, ALSO STRESS TRADITIONAL MEXICAN INTERESTS IN NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN, AND NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONES, AS WELL AS REORGANIZATION OF THE CCD. BUT, IF THEY FOLLOW PAST PRACTICE, THEY WILL WAIT UNTIL RELATIVELY LATE IN THE GAME TO COMMENCE THEIR CAMPAIGN.

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